THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 14, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

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'MILITARY TALKS POSITIVE', INDIA-CHINA JT STATEMENT

Both sides agreed not to turn differences into disputes, a joint statement by the two armies said on Tuesday

BOTH SIDES AGREE TO CONTINUE TALKS

The two sides deliberated on ways to disengage from various friction points in eastern Ladakh during the marathon talks in Chushul on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control on Monday. Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a stand-off in eastern Ladakh for over five months now. Both sides also agreed to continue talks through military and diplomatic channels

CHINA OPPOSES DEVELOPMENT IN LADAKH

- Reacting to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurating 44 new bridges in border areas, China said India's infrastructure push is the root cause of problems between the two countries
- "China does not recognise Ladakh UT and Arunachal Pradesh," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said | P9

12 hours

DURATION OF THE SEVENTH CORPS COMMANDER-LEVEL MEETING ON MONDAY

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

HC's stinker on denial of dignity in death to victim

Asks why Hathras DM has not been transferred yet; directs UP govt to draw up a draft policy on dealing with such situations in future

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

COMING down heavily on the Uttar Pradesh government over the hurried cremation of an alleged gang-rape and murder victim in Hathras in the dead of night, the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court called it an infringement of human rights of the victim and her family.

In its 11-page order a day after hearing the victim's family and senior officials - after taking suo motu cognisance of the matter - a division bench comprising Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Rajan Roy directed the state authorities to draw up a draft policy to deal with such situations is future.

"The facts and circumstances, as of now, ex facie, reveal that the decision to cremate the victim in the night without handing over the body to the family members or their consent though in the name of law and order situation, is prima facie an infringement upon the human rights of the victim and her family," it said.

"We do not at this stage find any good reason... as to why they could not hand over the body to the family members for some time, say for even half an hour, to enable them to perform their rituals at home and thereafter to cremate it either in the night or next day."

The court said that the victim was, at least, entitled to a decent cremation. "Cremation is one of the 'Sanskars' i.e., antim sanskar recognised as an important ritual which could not have been compromised taking shelter of law & order situation," the court said.

The question, the court said, was whether the hasty cremation — in the wee hours without showing her face to the family and not allowing them to undertake the necessary rituals — amounts to gross violation of fundamental/human rights. "If so, who is responsible for the same so as to fix their accountability and liability and how the family of the victim be compensated for it," the order said.

The bench took Prashant Kumar, ADG (Law and Order) to task over his claim that the rape was not proved, as the FSL report did not show any traces of semen on her body. It said no officer, who is not directly connected with the investigation, should make any statement in public on the offence based on evidence collected as it can lead to unnecessary speculation and confusion amongst the masses.

"No one should indulge in character assassination of the victim just as the accused should not be pronounced guilty before a fair trial," the order read, adding the probe agency and the courts should be allowed to determine them. P9

SHARP POSERS

Hathras SP was transferred but not the DM. Why different yardsticks for two district officers?

Why did Prashant Kumar, ADG (Law and Order), Lucknow, cite the FSL report to make the no-rape claim when he was not directly connected with the probe, which is still pending?

Isn't the police aware of the amendments to the definition of rape in 2013, which says mere absence of semen is not conclusive evidence in rape cases?

GST: Karnataka can borrow ₹9,018 crore

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

THE Union government on Tuesday granted permission to Karnataka to borrow ₹9,018 crore to offset GST compensation losses.

Karnataka was one of the first states to push for open market borrowing under Option 1 provided by the GST Council. On Tuesday's GST Council meeting, state's representative and Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai highlighted the immediate need for compensation as the state is hard-pressed for investment in both plan and non-plan expenditure. The Centre has approved borrowings barely a day after.

"The Government of India showed its commitment by reducing the estimated growth from 10 per cent to 7 per cent, which will provide an additional loan facility of ₹1,000 crore to the State Government from ₹11,432 crore to ₹12,400 crore," Bommai said.

Karnataka had even suggested that the Council can recommend to the Centre to permit states to borrow as per the provisions of Article 279 (4) (h) of the Constitution.

Insisting that additional borrowing will not burden the state, Bommai had said, "Who repays is more important than who borrows. Under this option, the repayment of both principal and the interest is done from the cess collected in the fund and there is no burden on the state."

WILL MOVE SC: KERALA FM

Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac said on Tuesday that Kerala will move Supreme Court along with the nine other states that have opposed the Centre's twin borrowing options

CENTRE ALLOWS 20 STATES TO RAISE ₹68,825 CRORE

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

A day after the GST Council meeting failed to arrive at a consensus on how to bridge the GST revenue shortfall, the Centre on Tuesday allowed 20 states to raise ₹68,825 crore through open market borrowings.

These states had agreed with the first option given by the Centre to borrow money under a special RBI window.

The 20 states are: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

"Additional borrowing permission has been granted at the rate of 0.50% of the Gross State Domestic Product to those states that have opted for Option 1," a Finance Ministry statement read.

At the press meet on Monday after the inconclusive GST Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said, "Just because there is no consensus, it does not mean no decision can be taken."

Eight states are yet to exercise either of the two options mooted by the Centre. The Finance Ministry statement said, "Action on the special borrowing window is being taken separately", which means the government is in no mood to negotiate any further on the issue.

The ministry had on May 17 provided additional borrowing limit of up to 2% of GSDP to the states. The final instalment of 0.5% (out of the 2% limit) was linked to carrying out three out of the four reforms stipulated by the Centre. However, to sweeten the deal, the Centre said it will waive the reform conditions in the final instalment in view of the Covid pandemic.

HIDDEN AGENDA

AG goes after TV trial of pending cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

EXPRESSING concern over the unbridled commentary by the electronic media on sub-judice matters, Attorney General **K K Venugopal** said on Tuesday this is being done to influence judges and public perception.

"Today, when I watch TV, I see comments about the bail application based on statements made to police. Channels play conversations when a bail plea is coming up, causing damage to the accused," the AG told a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar, which had assembled to hear a contempt petition against advocate Prashant Bhushan. The charges pertain to Bhushan's interview to *Tehelka* magazine in 2009 in which he said half of India's CJIs till then were corrupt.

Venugopal cited the Rafale case, pointing out how articles appeared in some papers on the same day the court was to hear petitions against the deal. "This issue needs to be addressed as well," the AG said.

Widespread riots on the night of August 11 in DJ Halli | FILE PHOTO

DJ Halli riots: Former mayor Sampath Raj named conspirator

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER Bengaluru Mayor Sampath Raj has been named as one of the key conspirators in an incident where Pulikeshinagar MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy's residence was torched on August 11. The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police, who are investigating the case, have submitted a preliminary chargesheet to the court naming 60 people, including Raj, as accused.

The chargesheet has been filed in connection with an FIR based on a complaint registered by MLA Murthy, who had alleged that the arson had damaged movable and immovable properties worth ₹3 crore.

The police have registered more than 50 FIRs in connection with the DJ Halli riots, in which three people were killed in police firing after the mob set fire to the MLA's residence, DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations, besides torching over 600 vehicles, including police buses, jeeps and vans.

A senior police officer said that this chargesheet is related only to the case filed by the MLA and the process of preparing chargesheets in other FIRs is on.

"We have enclosed digital and material evidence along with the chargesheet to establish Sampath Raj's role in the incident. We have gathered clinching evidence to prove his involvement," the official said.

"Sampath Raj wanted to see an end to Murthy's political career as they both nursed political rivalry for the last few years and he was waiting for an opportunity. On August 11, taking advantage of the sacrilegious post on social media by Murthy's nephew Naveen, Raj allegedly conspired to create a law and order problem and tarnish Murthy's image," the official added. P5

PULAKESHINAGAR MLA SEEKS MORE PROTECTION

After CCB named former Mayor R Sampath Raj as a conspirator in the violence, Pulakeshinagar MLA Akhanda Srinivasmurthy said he plans to approach the state government for more protection. "I might need more protection. I will discuss this with our party leaders and approach the CM or Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai for the same," he added. P5

Trolled Tanishq chickens out, nixes interfaith ad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

HIGH-END jewellery brand Tanishq on Tuesday withdrew an advertisement promoting interfaith marriage a day after it was severely trolled on social media. Tanishq said its decision was driven by the fact that the advert had drawn 'divergent and severe reactions'.

A section of the social media users alleged it was promoting 'love jihad' — a term used by hardline Hindutva groups to characterise Muslim men who allegedly entice Hindu girls to fall in love with them in order to promote religious conversion. And their #BoycottTanishq was trending. Among those who trolled it was Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut, who alleged it promoted 'love jihad' and 'sexism'.

Released on October 9 to promote the jewellery line Ekatvam (oneness), the video documented how a Muslim family was preparing for the baby shower of their Hindu daughter-in-law. The idea was to celebrate the coming together of people from different walks of life and celebrate the beauty of oneness, said Tanishq, which is part of the Titan group.

Academics and activists condemned the withdrawal.

Feminist historian Uma Chakravarti said, "This is typical of the market which may think something is trendy and acceptable, but not standing up to its own philosophy later."

CONTINUED ON: P10

Bypolls: BJP picks Muniratna, Rajesh

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

AFTER a prolonged delay, the BJP on Tuesday announced its candidates for the November 3 bypolls – N Muniratna will contest from Rajarajeshwari Nagar, and Dr Rajesh Gowda from Sira.

Both candidates are new faces for the party. While Muniratna, a former Congress MLA, was one of the rebel legislators who jumped ship to the BJP in 2019, contributing to the collapse of the JDS-Congress coalition government, Dr Rajesh Gowda is the son of former Congress MP from Chitradurga C P Mudalagiriappa.

Muniratna's candidature comes on the day a Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice Sharad Bobde, Justice AS Bopanna and Justice V Ramasubramanian dismissed special leave petitions filed by BJP State Unit Secretary Tulasi Muniraju Gowda. Gowda had challenged Muniratna's election in the 2018 assembly polls. As soon as the legal hurdle in Muniratna's candidature was struck down, the BJP announced his name for the RR Nagar bypoll.

The BJP state core committee had unanimously agreed on Muniratna's candidature as a matter of fulfilling the commitment given to him for his role in bringing the BS Yediyurappa-led BJP government to power in the State. The BJP hopes to sail through the RR Nagar bypoll, given Muniratna's clout and party cadres. The Congress has fielded political newbie H Kusuma, while JDS has chosen local unit chief Krishnamurthy here. P4

EXPRESS READ

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti released

Srinagar: PDP president and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti was released on Tuesday night as the Union Territory administration revoked the Public Safety Act charges against her, more than a year after she was detained following the abrogation of special status of the erstwhile state. P9

Kangana booked by Karnataka police

Bengaluru: A case has been registered against Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut in the Tumakuru district over her tweet allegedly targeting farmers protesting against contentious central farm laws, police said on Tuesday.

GP polls must be held by year-end: State told

Bengaluru: Even as the State Government is pushing for further postponement of gram panchayat elections, the Karnataka State Election Commission has informed the government that the local body polls have to be held in 2020. P7

ALL'S WELL...

BSY plays peacemaker; warring ministers put up show of unity

Ministers B Sreeramulu and Dr K Sudhakar approach the Chief Minister's residence in Bengaluru on Tuesday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A day after a miffed B Sreeramulu walked out of Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's residence over reallocation of his portfolio, the latter has brokered a truce – at least on the face of it – between his two warring ministers.

The CM held talks with Sreeramulu and Dr K Sudhakar on Tuesday morning and convinced them to put up a united front, especially since the state is set to witness bypolls to two Assembly seats. In an attempt to send across the message that all is well, the Chief Minister's Office even shared videos of the two ministers – who have been at loggerheads ever since the Covid-19 pandemic broke out – walking together in the lawns of the CM's residence. After his talk with Yediyurappa, Sreeramulu finally agreed to accept the Social Welfare portfolio and even changed his social media handle's bio accordingly.

The ministers, who spoke to the media after the truce meeting, claimed that there were no differences or hard feelings between them, but not without subtle taunts at each other.

"All of us are putting in our efforts under the leadership of the Chief Minister to bring Covid-19 under control. We are trying to do all that we can beyond our strength. When Sudhakar took over the responsibility of Covid-19 management in Bengaluru, there were 1,000 cases per day, but now there are about 5,000 every day. That doesn't mean he too has failed," Sreeramulu quipped when asked if the change of portfolio was a result of his failure as Health and Family Welfare minister. P4